

Message Text

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TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF UNESCO 97TH EXBD: ITEM

3.3.1 - "STUDY OF THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING

GREATER USE OF THE SERVICES OF INTERNATIONAL

COUNCILS SPONSORED BY UNESCO IN THE WORK OF PRE-

PARING THE ORGANIZATION'S PROGRAM"

REF: PARIS 07546

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY PROPOSALS WHICH MAY BE CONTAINED
IN THE DOCUMENTATION (97 EX/5), WHICH WE HAVE NOT YET
RECEIVED, WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THE STUDY SHOULD BE
LIMITED TO THE NGO'S ASSOCIATED WITH UNESCO. THE ROLE OF
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCILS FOR PROGRAMS SUCH AS MAB, IHP,
IOC IS DEFINED IN THEIR STATUTES AND THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE
ALREADY SCRUTINIZED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. THESE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCILS FUNCTION REASONABLY WELL AND THE
SECRETARIAT HAS ON THE WHOLE BEEN CAREFUL TO INCORPORATE
THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS INTO DRAFT BIENNIAL PROGRAMS. THEY
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HAVE SERVED AS USEFUL VEHICLES FOR INJECTING U.S.
INFLUENCE ON PROGRAMS. WE DOUBT THAT AN EXBD STUDY WOULD
CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING VERY USEFUL AND THERE IS A DANGER THAT

THE BOARD MAY ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCILS MORE RESPONSIVE TO POLITICAL PRESSURES.

2. THE ROLE OF NGO'S CAN BE LOOKED AT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF INPUTS TO DRAFT PROGRAMS AND OF IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED PROGRAMS.

(A) INPUTS. THE PREPARATION OF A DRAFT PROGRAM (C/5) IS AN EXTREMELY COMPLEX PROCESS. AS PERMDEL IS WELL AWARE, IT INVOLVES THE AMALGAMATION AND BALANCING OF NUMEROUS INTERESTS, INTER ALIA, PAST GC RESOLUTIONS, SECRETARIAT PET PROJECTS, LOBBYING BY MEMBER STATES, RECOMMENDATIONS BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCILS. BEFORE C/5 IS PRINTED, NGO'S CAN BE VERY INFLUENTIAL, PROVIDED THE WORKING LEVEL SECRETARIAT TAPS THE BRAIN POWER OF THE NGO'S. FROM OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE SCIENCE SECTOR, AT LEAST, THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF INTERACTION BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT AND PROFESSIONALS REPRESENTING KEY SCIENTIFIC NGO'S. ONCE THE C/5 IS PRINTED, HOWEVER, THE ADVICE AND/OR WRITTEN RESPONSES BY NGO'S IS PERHAPS AS NEGLIGIBLE AS IS THAT OF ANY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATE. FRANKLY, WE SEE NO NEED FOR ADDITIONAL BUREAUCRATIC OR FORMAL CONSULTATION PROCEDURES WITH NGO'S, BUT WE WOULD CERTAINLY ENCOURAGE INCREASED INFORMAL CONTACTS AT THE WORKING LEVEL EARLY IN THE DRAFTING STAGES OF C/5. MORE RIGID PROCEDURES COULD BE SELF-SERVING FOR THE SECRETARIAT AS WELL AS THE NGO'S; BOTH MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO SEEK NEW UNNECESSARY PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY THEIR RELATIONSHIPS. IN CONTRAST, CLOSE CONTACTS CONDUCTED ON A MORE INFORMAL BASIS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME PERMIT THE SECRETARIAT TO BE STIMULATED BY IDEAS OF CONCERN TO THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION. NGO'S ARE INVALUABLE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS. UNESCO'S CONTRACTS WITH NGO'S FOR EXECUTION OF SPECIFIC PROGRAMS ARE OF COURSE ONE IMPORTANT MEANS. PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO PROGRAMS THROUGH CONTRACTS OR OTHERWISE OFTEN ASSISTS NGO'S IN RAISING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS IN HOST COUNTRIES, THUS ENHANCING
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UNESCO'S ROLE AS A CATALYST. IT MAY BE TRUE THAT THIS CATALYTIC EFFECT IS MORE SUCCESSFUL IN SOME DISCIPLINES THAN IN OTHERS. THE EXBD SHOULD PERHAPS LIMIT ITS EXAMINATION TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED AND WHICH WOULD BENEFIT FROM GREATER PARTICIPATION BY NGO'S.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT THE EXBD STUDY SHOULD EXCLUDE EXAMINATION OF SUBVENTIONS TO NGO'S, BECAUSE THAT IS A SEPARATE QUESTION. IN VIEW OF PAST GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS REGARDING NGO RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA AND

TAIWAN, THE QUESTION OF SUBVENTIONS IS DELICATE. BOARD
MEMBERS WITH ULTERIOR MOTIVES COULD USE THE OCCASION TO
CHALLENGE THE COOPERATION BETWEEN UNESCO AND CERTAIN KEY
NGO'S WHICH HAVE SKILLFULLY AVOIDED SUCCUMBING TO
POLITICAL PRESSURES WHICH VIOLATE THE PRINCIPLE OF THE
FREE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOLARS. KISSINGER

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